CARVERS.

All About Their Style and Quality—American Versus English Cutlery.

Notwithstanding Sheffield is known the world over for its manufacture of cutlery and sharp-edged tools, it has been forced to relinquish the bulk of the American trade because the ingenious Yankee has learned how to make knives and forks which are not only just as good in metal, but better in finish and design, and decidedly cheaper than foreign manufacturers can compete with. One fatal defect which hastened the death-knell of British cutlery on this side was the fact that the handles, both ivory and horn, were not tempered to resist climatic influence. Though farther north than Chicago, the climate of Great Britain is much milder, and because of its oceanic exposure the atmosphere is more humid. Knives mounted in Sheffield and received in Chicago were all right till the cold weather came, but nights of extreme frigidity proved so disastrous to the British cutlery that ivory, pearl and horn handles would cut up like so much corn in a hopper. A down-town firm, which is the largest of the kind in the world, had a night-watchman who heard strange noises in the cutlery department every night, and not only believed it to be the abode of ghosts but actually gave up his situation from sheer fright. The stock was overhauled, and it was found to be damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars. Even in showcases of retail houses or in any locality where they would be exposed to low temperature, the handles of these goods would crack beyond the possibility of concealment or repair.

Recognizing the fact that if English goods were to be driven to the wall the American substitute must not only equal them in point of material but surpass them in design and finish, the Eastern capitalists lent aid to home skill, and the result was not only a better class of goods than they had been buying from Sheffield, but the best that have ever been put on the American market.

Among carving-knives the old-fashioned nine-inch straight blades have given place to a variety of shapes, the cutting edges generally describing some part of a circle. A variation of a Turkish cimiter is the most popular blade. For steak or game a six-inch inch knife is used, while the Christmas turkey or family roast can not be attacked with a better implement than a ten-inch blade. For some reason known only to themselves the carvers in hotels and restaurants are still faithful to the "slicer," a blunt-pointed, perfectly straight blade which has the appearance of an overgrown case-knife. It varies in length from twelve to sixteen inches, and is so flexible that one can almost tie knots in it. An oddity in the cutlery stock is the jointing carver, designed for separating the joints of poultry and game of doubtful age. The blade is a long and very narrow steel, with an almost needle point.

Carvers are seldom preferred with ivory handles, which discolor, crack, and do not resist washing well. There are, however, beauties made from elephant and walrus tusks, elaborated with hand-wrought designs, which make a set worth $50. Where the decoration is done by machinery the cost is a third less, while a much more durable knife, containing the same metal, finished with stag horn, can be had for $9. American carvers have the addition of a knive-rest, which protects the table linen and guards against wounding the hand of a novice. The attachment is movable, and is to be found on all grades—even the $1 carver.—*Chicago Tribune*

AN INCIDENT.

The Sting Which Was Hidden by Polished Exterior—Two Women's Ways.

"How do you do, my dear?" Here they kissed effusively. "I am *so* glad to see you!" Here they kissed again. "I haven't seen you for such an age." Here they shook hands warmly. "Where have you been so long? I had about made up my mind you were never coming here. How is dear little Rebus? Oh, I see you have brought him with you. Isn't that nice?" Here Mrs. Gimlette led her guest to a chair by the window, where she could see her clothes in a strong light, and gracefully sank upon a sofa in the shade.

"Yes, dear," replied Mrs. Jones, with a little cultured sigh: "I thought I should never get here. You live in such an out-of-the-way street. It really is quite a journey. I should have been here before, though; but Mrs. Brown told me only the other day that your girl had left, and you were doing your own work, and I knew you must be too tired to receive callers."

"Oh! did Mrs. Brown say that?" replied Mrs. Gimlette; "that is just the kind of information I should expect from her. You know I didn't invite her to my last reception. What a lovely dress! I didn't think you could ever have made it over so well. It does pay to buy good material, doesn't it, my dear? By-the-way, how is little Rebus—the poor little dear?"

"Oh, he has been quite poorly. He had such a dreadful shock last week. I got in a car with him in my arms, and what do you think the brute of a conductor did? He told me I couldn't have my dear little Rebus in his dirty old car. I protested that the poor little fellow was doing no harm.

"'Harm or not, madam,' said the brute; 'I have my orders, and my orders is to allow no dorgs in this car,' and he rang the bell, and the car stopped.

"'Now, madam,' he said, as he reached for dear little Rebus, 'I shall have to put this dorg off.'

"'You wouldn't be brute enough to do that,' I said, for I was indignant clear through. 'Why, he hasn't his blanket on, and he will surely catch his death of cold.'"

"But I was forced to get off. I shall have him discharged, though. And, do you know, right on the other side of the car there sat a miserable dirty washer-woman, with a little red-faced, common baby in her lap, and they made me take my sweet little Rubus off the car."

"It was a shame," replied Mrs. Gimlette, sympathetically: "I didn't see you and Mrs. Simpson at the ball Wednesday."

"No, poor little Rubus was threatened with lung fever, and I had to stay at home to nurse him. But Fred went."

"I'm so sorry you couldn't go. You would have enjoyed it so much. Mrs. Simpson had all her wedding-silver out. Do you know I think it is only plated? The papers said the morning after the wedding that it cost ten thousand dollars; but I think it was bought on Broadway for two hundred and fifty dollars; it is exactly like a set I saw there."

"What a shame!" replied Mrs. Jones, feelingly: "to impose on people so. Her set, then, isn't any better than your set."

"I saw Mrs. Smith there," continued Mrs. Gimlette, without noticing her visitor's insinuation; "she was dressed beautifully."

"What, that creature? I am astonished at her effrontery. Was her husband there?"

"No. I believe he was out of town; but she doesn't mind it any."

"I'll warrant you," returned Mrs. Jones; "that is the woman Fred is always raving over. I think she is simply odious."

"Mr. Jones doesn't appear to agree with you," replied Mrs. Gimlette, sweetly.

"No," replied Mrs. Jones, hotly; "he is always setting her up as a model before me. It is Mrs. Smith this and Mrs. Smith that, until I am sick of her very name."

"I don't blame you, dear. I should be, too. Mr. Gimlette, fortunately, thinks there is no one like me."

"How very odd! How was she dressed? I suppose she wore her paste-diamonds as usual."

"Are they really paste? I thought they were real stones. They are more brilliant than that beautiful Rhinestone set of yours. By-the-way, what has become of that set?"

"Hers are paste," returned Mrs. Jones, without replying to the question; "I have seen them in the daytime, and they don't shine at all."

"She wore a white brocade of velvet with a terra cotta velvet train. It was perfectly stunning. I wish you could have seen her."

"What? The same old dress? I declare, she has had that two seasons."

"Well, dear," returned Mrs. Gimlette, "I am sorry you couldn't have been there. You would have had a charming time. I had a splendid chance to see Mrs. Simpson's curtains. You know the papers said they were real Madras lace, and cost five hundred dollars a window. I examined them closely, and I think they are only imitation. It is getting so nowadays that you can't believe anything you read in the newspapers, and only half you see."

"How very shameful!"

"By-the-way," continued Mrs. Gimlette, "I feel as if I really ought to tell you how Mrs. Smith carried on. It was perfectly scandalous."

"I am glad to hear it. I always knew that creature would disgrace herself some way. What did she do?"

"She danced all evening with one man. She went to supper with him, and when she got ready to go, he took her home in his own carriage."

"Well, I am astonished. Mr. Smith ought to know this. I hope Fred saw it. Perhaps something of that sort would disgust him with her. He does detest these things. He hates a woman who flirts."

"So I have always understood," replied Mrs. Gimlette, pleasantly: "I am sorry you weren't there to see it."

"So am I. Well, I shall tell Fred all about it."

"I shouldn't trouble, dear. I think he saw it."

"Did he?" Said Mrs. Jones, in surprise: "It's funny he didn't say anything to me about it. Well, I am much obliged to you for telling me."

"Thanks, dear. I knew you would be glad to hear it. What! Going so soon?"

"Yes, it is getting quite late. By-the-way, who was the man Mrs. Smith was flirting with?"

"It was Mr. Jones, dear. Good by! Come again, that's a dear."—*Benjamin Northrop, in Puck.*

NOSES.

An Alleged Invention and Some of Its Weak Points.

Some one has invented a process for the reduction of large noses. The inventor was struck by the alleged fact that noses on which spectacles are worn are, as a rule, small noses. He thereupon formulated the theory that the pressure of the spectacles on the bridge of the nose interferes with the free circulation of blood, and that this interference deprives the nose of nourishment and prevents its growth. In accordance with this theory he now proposes to reduce the size of any given nose by placing a metallic clamp on the bridge. This clamp, if worn every night, will, as he believes, reduce the largest nose to moderate proportions within a reasonable length of time.

There are two or three weak points about this alleged invention. One of these is that the theory on which it is founded has no support in fact. Some of our most eminent noses are those on which spectacles have been worn for a lifetime, and among our smallest noses are some on which spectacles have never rested. That spectacles of one sort and another are worn much more generally now than they were fifty years ago, and that noses as a general thing have grown smaller during the same period, is undoubtedly true, but it does not follow that there is any connection between the two facts.

The gradual decline of the human nose is the result of the introduction and general use of handkerchiefs. The Romans never used handkerchiefs, and their noses, as we all know, were of the largest and finest type. Moreover, they were less liable to colds in the head than are people of the present time, and their noses enjoyed almost a sinecure. As civilization spread northward from Italy the inhabitants of the cold and variable climate of Northern Europe found that their noses were constantly called into activity, and as a consequence the average European nose fell below the Roman standard. Within modern times the handkerchief was invented, and a new and potent factor in the reduction of noses thus came into existence. Constant friction will wear away the hardest stone, much more the soft and cartilaginous nose. Under the friction of handkerchiefs the noses of the present century have steadily diminished, until small noses are worn almost as much as spectacles.

It is a question whether it is desirable ever to reduce the size of a nose. Greatness of intellect has in all ages been closely allied to greatness of nose, and the man who, having been gifted by nature with a nose of true nobility, should desire to dwarf it and his intellect at the same time, would deserve no assistance in his foolish purpose.—*N. Y. Times.*

—A wealthy Canandaigua lady has fitted out a reading-room for the young men of the village free of charge. The lady bears all the expenses, and only requires good order and proper conduct from those who frequent the place.—*Newark (N. Y.) Courier.*

—Cholera is produced, say our best American authorities, by a distinct poison or germ, which infects clothing, food and water. Without this germ cholera can not develop. It does not develop spontaneously in any country except the delta of the Ganges.

HOME AND FARM.

—By rubbing with a damp flannel dipped in the best whiting, the brown discoloration may be taken off cups in which custards have been baked.—*Philadelphia Press.*

—How many west hillsides there are which are of no real use to the owner and that might be made of great value by planting it to orchards of apples, peaches, plums, quinces or cherries.

—Never put an open bridle on your horse until you know that he will go safely with it. Some horses will get frightened and kick, while others will run away if driven with an open bridle.—*N. Y. Times.*

—It is said that if a teaspoonful of mustard is mixed with water and molasses, which is usually poured over baked beans, there is no danger of the stomach being distressed after eating them.—*Troy Times.*

—On very rich land, with early sowing, one bushel and a half of barley is enough, as it will spread from the root and give larger heads than with heavier seeding. But if barley is sown late, two and even two and a half bushels may be sown with advantage.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—Hickorynut Cake: One-half cup of butter, two cups of sugar and four eggs, beaten separately; three cups of flour, one-half cup of sweet milk, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, two cups of hickorynut meats, minced, one teaspoonful of extract of vanilla.—*The Household.*

—An easy and perfectly satisfactory way to cook a custard is to put it into a pudding dish or tin basin and set it into a pan of hot water placed in a moderately hot oven. About half an hour's cooking will be required, and there is not the least danger of burning.—*N. Y. Post.*

—Pipe clay made into a paste with cold water will, it is said, remove grease stains from papered or plastered walls if put on without rubbing, left to stay over night, and then brushed off lightly. Where the grease has been on for some time several applications may be needed.—*Exchange.*

—For currant biscuits take one cup of corn starch, one and a half pints of flour, one-quarter of a cup of sugar, one-quarter of a cup of lard, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, two eggs, one cup of dried currants, half a pint of milk. Roll out the dough half an inch thick, cut round, lay on a greased baking tin and bake twenty minutes in a hot oven.—*Boston Budget.*

—I would say to all, use your gentlest voice at home; watch it day by day, as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is joy, like a lark's song, to a hearth at home. It is a light that shines. Train to sweet tones now and it will keep in tune through life.—*Chicago Standard.*

—A pork-raiser thinks he has discovered a remedy for hog-cholera. He simply drives his swine, when attacked, on the highway for half a day, and declares they recover. His theory is that the exercise encourages a more lively circulation of the blood, opens the skin pores, expands the lungs, causes the voiding of worms and renovates the animal generally. Our own experience is that the man who attempts to drive hogs gets the bulk of the exercise himself.—*Albany Journal.*

THE GRAY SQUIRREL.

Some Interesting Facts Concerning this Well-Known Rodent.

The gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) varies in color from yellowish gray to pure jet black. The average length of head and body is twelve inches; of the tail thirteen inches. This squirrel was once found throughout North America east of the Plains, but has been exterminated in many districts by man's brutal destruction. In the South the gray squirrel lives in heavily wooded swamps, often in cypress forests where almost the entire surface of the ground is covered with water. Northward it is found among wooded hills, delighting in the deepest forests where nut-bearing trees are abundant. In the early morning and late afternoon, this squirrel is busy among the tree-tops, feeding, building its nest, or playing; for several hours before and after noon, it stays in its nest or crouched in some comfortable tree fork, resting. The summer domicile of this species is built, in a suitable crotch, of twigs and branches with their leaves yet upon them, and is lined with moss or some similar material. Its winter home is always a hole in some great tree. During the rutting season, the males have fierce battles among themselves, and often seriously wound each other with their sharp and powerful incisor teeth. The young are five or six in number, and are produced in May or June. Like all rodents, they mature very rapidly, and are soon able to take care of themselves. The gray squirrel passes the winter in a semi-torpid condition, but on warm days leaves its snug home in search of such food as the frost may have spared. It lays up but little store, depending on its occasional foraging expeditions for the scant supply of food it consumes during the cold weather.

The food of this species is that of the squirrels in general; it is also fond of the larvæ of insects, and in remote localities where still abundant, does some damage to the grain crops. Because of the latter it is mercilessly killed, although the injury it inflicts is hardly equivalent in value to the powder and shot used to destroy it. Many years ago a bounty of three pence a head was offered in Pennsylvania for the scalps of this species, it then being so abundant, the country being still largely covered by forests, that its ravages were a serious damage to the colonists. In the West squirrel killing battues are, or were up to within a short time, still in vogue. Bets were made as to the number to be killed, and the wholesale slaughter was conducted with a zeal worthy of the native South African! The migrations of this squirrel are particularly interesting; they have now, owing to the scarcity of the species, grown much rarer than formerly. Immense numbers of squirrels would congregate together, and migrate in search of food—or it may have been adventures—crossing open glades, broad rivers, and even arms of lakes, stopping for nothing until their arrival at a suitable locality, when they dispersed, and again took to their usual manner of living. The voice of the gray squirrel is a shrill bark, which sounds musical enough as it rings through the forest in the early hours of a bright summer morning. The beautiful black variety of this species does not differ in any way in habits from his gray brother.—*Country Gentleman.*

—The hair of a mad dog is said to be an excellent antidote for hydrophobia.

FOR GENTLEMEN.

Hints to Men Respecting the Wearing of Jewelry, Etc.

Men should use as little jewelry as possible. The watch-chain should not go around the neck, and should be attached as high in the vest as it will reach. One ring may be worn on the third finger of the left hand. Three studs in a dress shirt are to be preferred to one. Scarf pins should be plain and never worn in knotted scarfs. Imitation jewelry, particularly mock diamonds, are the extreme of vulgarity. Wear your hair short, and longer on the top than at the sides and back of the head. Part it high up in the middle, if you choose. Wash the hair frequently with soap and water, and never use pomatums or oils of any sort. If you wear a full beard, keep it well trimmed, as well as the hair; if you shave, shave every day. Cut your beard so as to give regularity to the outline of the face, and learn to shave yourself. Keep the nails moderately long, pointed and scrupulously clean. Go regularly to a dentist to have the teeth examined for cavities, and brush them at least twice a day.

A few hints on the wearing of clothes will suffice. A full dress suit—swallow-tail coat, black or white single-breasted vest, white neck-tie, stand-up collar, high black hat and light kid gloves—should never be worn until evening, just before dinner. A white neck-tie should never be worn except with a full dress suit, save by clergymen and elderly men. Black trousers should never be worn except in the evening. Double-breasted frock coats should always be of black material. At public entertainment—save the opera—double-breasted coat, dark trousers and light kid gloves are worn. At home the first consideration with everybody is comfort; but no gentleman will ever sit down to table in his shirt sleeves.—*N. Y. Star.*

Revival of the Hoopskirt.

"Hoopskirts are certainly getting more popular every year," said a manufacturer to a reporter, "and in the course of a few years I firmly believe that we shall have the crinoline popular again."

"What do you attribute their increased popularity to?"

"For some time the Parisian fashion papers have been speaking in high terms of their use, and the modistes have advocated their use very largely. They are much preferable to the bustle. Manufacturers of the steel hoop have perfected that article, and it is now made as pliable as a fabric. The new hoop is very different from the old crinoline. Twenty years ago they used to be made 90 to 100 inches in circumference, and we used to laugh at any as small as 90 inches; now they are made 54 and 56 inches in circumference. I expect in the course of a year or so to have them very popular. A lady who wears a hoopskirt of, say, 64 inches in circumference can make a much better display of her dress than without it. The style of wearing these handsomely embroidered fronts to dresses can be much improved on by the use of the skirts, the front being held more in position and not hanging carelessly.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

He Only Wanted to See.

Judge Gerald Cummings, is a respected resident of Fort Worth, Texas, notwithstanding that he is immensely stout and a member of the legal profession. He tried many anti-fat remedies to reduce his weight, but without any satisfactory result. He finally went to Hot Springs in Arkansaw, and much to his joy he lost considerable adipose, and returned to Fort Worth in a most happy frame of mind. He thought and talked of nothing else except his loss of flesh.

He went to market one morning recently and said to the butcher:

"Cut me off twenty pounds of pork."

The request was complied with. The Judge looked at the meat for some time, and then walked off.

"Shall I send the meat to your house, Judge?" asked the butcher.

"O no," was the reply, "I don't want it. I have fallen off just twenty pounds, and I only wanted to see how much it was."—*Texas Siftings.*

—A recent traveler gives the following as some of the rules for living held by the modern Dervishes, which somewhat upsets the popular idea of a Dervish: "Be kind to those below you in life; do not criticise the faults of others; if you see them, conceal them; if you can not do this with your hand, do so with your skirts, your tongue and your heart. A day will come when nothing will benefit you; neither family nor wealth; nothing except submission to God with a pure heart."

—An offer of $700 has been refused by a citizen of Thomas County, Ga., for a mad-stone which he found in Montgomery County while on a visit there recently. It is egg-shaped and about half the size of a hen's egg.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, February 23, 1885.

CATTLE—Native Steers	$ 5 00	@	6 75
COTTON—Middling	10¼	@	11⅛
FLOUR—Good to Choice	3 60	@	5 50
WHEAT—No. 2 Red	90⅝	@	92⅝
CORN—No. 2	53	@	54
OATS—Western Mixed	38	@	40
PORK—New Mess	14 12½	@	14 25
ST. LOUIS.			
COTTON—Middling	10⅜	@	11
BEEVES—Good to Heavy	5 35	@	5 65
Fair to Good	4 50	@	5 25
HOGS—Common to Select	4 25	@	5 15
SHEEP—Fair to Choice	4 25	@	4 60
FLOUR—XXX to Choice	3 80	@	3 45
WHEAT—No 2 Winter	86¾	@	87
No. 3 "	[illegible]	@	81⅛
CORN—No. 2 Mixed	37	@	37½
OATS—No. 2	30	@	30⅝
RYE	63	@	64⅛
TOBACCO—Lugs	3 00	@	9 00
Medium Leaf	9 00	@	12 00
HAY—Choice Timothy	12 50	@	13 50
BUTTER—Choice Dairy	25	@	27
EGGS—Fresh	....	@	22
PORK—New Mess	13 25	@	13 37½
BACON—Clear Rib	7	@	7¼
LARD	6⅞	@	7
CHICAGO.			
CATTLE—Exports	5 75	@	6 50
HOGS—Good to Choice	4 90	@	5 30
SHEEP—Good to Choice	3 60	@	4 60
FLOUR—Winter	4 00	@	4 25
Patent	3 75	@	5 00
WHEAT—No. 2 Spring	78	@	78¼
No 2 Red	80½	@	81
CORN—No. 2	37⅝	@	38
OATS—No. 2	27¼	@	27½
PORK—New Mess	12 95	@	13 00
KANSAS CITY.			
CATTLE—Native Steers	4 90	@	5 70
HOGS—Sales at	4 10	@	4 80
WHEAT—No. 2	63	@	63¼
CORN—No. 2 Mixed	....	@	31
OATS—No. 2	....	@	27
NEW ORLEANS.			
FLOUR—High Grades	4 50	@	5 50
CORN—White	63	@	64
OATS—Choice Western	41	@	42
HAY—Choice	20 00	@	21 00
PORK—Mess	13 50	@	13 75
BACON—Clear Rib	....	@	7¾
COTTON—Middling	....	@	10½
LOUISVILLE.			
WHEAT—No. 2 Red	....	@	86
CORN—No. 2 Mixed	....	@	44¼
OATS—No. 2 Mixed	....	@	34
PORK—Mess	....	@	13 50
BACON—Clear Rib	....	@	7¾
COTTON—Middling	10¼	@	10⅜

—William Cunningham was a brutal Provost Marshal of the British army in America, in the war of independence. He was executed in England for forgery, August 10, 1791. He starved, persecuted and murdered American prisoners in the city of New York. Of such captives under his care nearly 2,000 were starved to death (whose rations he sold), and more than 250 were privately hung, without trial, to gratify his brutal appetite.

—Milsap (Tex.) *Times:* The publishers the last week have had to do their own cooking and washing, besides carrying fuel from the woods and getting out the press. The editor of this paper is affected with rheumatism at intervals that is sometimes very painful, and he requests his friends to not hustle him about so roughly when they become a little frolicsome.

IT has never yet been clearly settled whether to *crack* a joke impairs its value.—*Chicago Tribune.*

ONE thing the dude always puts his whole soul into—his toothpick shoe.—*N. Y. Sun.*

THE marriage write—The certificate.—*Boston Budget.*

IT takes a sharp man to get through dull times.

IT was a tender-hearted young lady who refused to strike an octave.

THE greatest mash on record—Truth crushed to earth.—*N. Y. Journal.*